



PHYSICIAN BULLETIN

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MORBID OBESITY

Morbid Obesity, as defined by the American Medical Association (AMA), is a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 40.

TREATMENT OF OBESITY

The treatment of obesity is covered by MHD when the treatment is an integral and necessary part of a course of treatment for a concurrent or complicating medical condition. Listed below are gastric bypass, gastroplasty, and laparoscopy Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes covered by MHD for patients with a BMI of greater than 40 and a co-morbid condition(s). These services must be prior authorized. Please refer to section 8 of the physician's manual or click on the link below to review the prior authorization policy at the MHD Web site:

<http://manuals.momed.com/lpBin22/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-j.htm&2.0>

| PROCEDURE CODE | DESCRIPTION |
|----------------|---|
| 43644 | Laproscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy (roux limb 150 cm or less) |
| 43645 | Laproscopy, surgical, with gastric bypass and small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption |
| 43659 | Unlisted laparoscopy procedure, stomach |
| 43842 | Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; vertical-banded gastroplasty |
| 43843 | Gastric restrictive procedure, other than vertical-banded gastroplasty |
| 43846 | Gastric restrictive procedure, with gastric bypass for morbid obesity; with short limb (150 cm or less) Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy |
| 43847 | Gastric restrictive procedure, with small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption |
| 43848 | Revision, open, of gastric restrictive procedure for morbid obesity, other than adjustable gastric band (separate procedure) |

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.missouri.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

MC+ Managed Care: The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MC+ Fee-for-Service
- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MC+ Managed Care

Questions regarding MC+ Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MC+ Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the red MC+ card or by calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-635-8908 and using Option One.

Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896